

# Early Head Start - Child Care Partnerships

**E**arly Head Start - Child Care Partnerships (EHS-CCP) is a competitive federal grant program that pairs Early Head Start grantees with local child care providers, both in-home and center-based, to improve the quality of care and expand the capacity and benefits of Early Head Start. Through these Partnerships, the best of Early Head Start programs is reaching more children in a variety of settings, while maximizing federal dollars.

Early Head Start provides high-quality early education and comprehensive development supports for infants and toddlers from low-income families, but reaches just a fraction of eligible children. EHS-CCP was created in 2013 to address this gap in service. The Partnership's innovative and efficient approach of layering EHS-CCP and child care subsidy funds improves the quality of care across communities, benefitting all children in the care of participating providers—not just those receiving subsidies—while also expanding access to wrap-around services for children from low-income families.

## ● Maximizing Program Strengths

Each year, Early Head Start and the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) program provide high-quality early learning to millions of children from low-income families. Still, these programs serve a small percentage of eligible children, and too often, families struggle to find and afford infant and toddler care.

## At a Glance

■ **Created:**  
2013

■ **Who this Program Serves:**  
Supports children from low-income families by partnering Early Head Start grantees with child care providers in a variety of child care settings, including center- and home-based child care.

Early Head Start serves children from low-income families from birth to age three.

◆ **Numbers Served:**<sup>1</sup>  
275 Early Head Start grantees have partnered with over 1,400 child care centers and 1,000 home-based child care providers. In 2017:

- 32,000 infants and toddlers were directly supported.
- 7,800 additional children in centers and classrooms who do not qualify for Early Head Start benefited indirectly from improved quality.

● **Delivery Method:**  
Early Head Start grantees work with child care providers to improve quality and provide comprehensive services to children and families.

■ **Current Federal Funding:**<sup>2</sup>  
\$905 million

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2017.

<sup>2</sup> FY2020 was the last time a specific funding level was noted for EHS-CCP and Early Head Start expansion.



EHS-CCP brings together the best of these programs by pairing Early Head Start grantees with providers who serve children receiving subsidies and agree to meet Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS). Grantees assist their child care partners in meeting these standards and integrating comprehensive services and resources into more traditional, center- and home-based child care settings. These settings typically offer more flexible and convenient full-day, full-year services for working families.

**EHS-CCP improves the quality of care across communities, benefitting all children in the care of participating providers, not just those receiving subsidies.**

### Increasing Access to Quality

Head Start is a model for providing affordable, comprehensive, high-quality care and education, and the HSPPS represent best practices in the field. EHS-CCP extends the same quality of care into the array of in-home and center-based care options.

The Partnerships improve the overall quality of care at participating child care centers and family child care homes by:

- Reducing ratios of children to adults, so all children in a partnership classroom benefit from more personalized attention;
- Improving professional development for teachers;
- Adopting a high-quality curriculum; and
- Leveraging funds to provide vision, hearing, dental, speech, developmental, and nutritional screenings for all children served, not just those enrolled in the EHS-CCP.



In exchange for agreeing to meet HSPPS, child care providers receive access to critical resources including coaching, professional development, materials and curricula, equipment, facilities, and in many cases, higher pay. Federal funds also support technical assistance to help Early Head Start grantees implement the partnerships successfully.



### Continued Need

FFYF supports increased federal funding to help address the needs of young children from low-income families and is committed to identifying opportunities that will result in more children accessing high-quality learning opportunities. EHS-CCP is an innovative model to improve access to high-quality learning and care for more children. FFYF supports building upon investments in Head Start and the expansion of the EHS-CCP initiative.